Mr. John H. Davis
20 East 10 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10003

7/30/89

Dear Mr. Davis,

Your fan, Cindy Kolenda, is right in comparing your writing with banana splits and it has almost that much value. But what in the hell does that have to do with your gross and deliberate defamation of me that you ignored until the publishers' lawyers got after you about them? And as you all know, you ignored my letters until they did. And now you continue to lie.

You say that I said that your "research assistant Amy Stevens took files from your (my) office and you want those files back and you attribute this to the lawyers. You know very well that as soon as I found that something had disappeared I wrote you. And you ignored that letter, too, as you then ignored my letter about this to McGraw-Hill.

It was not from my office and Amy had no interest in them. It is part of the correspondence I initiated with Wasserman for my own purposes that you also lie about. I did not ask for the return of "files" and I did not even ask for the return of originals. All I asked for is what you can provide, the return of copies so I'll have that information, which just happens to have disappeared when you were fabricating a false case important to your banana-split of a book. Even now you refuse to do this and in support of your continuing bad behavior you have another lie, "(t)hus every document from your files that I now possess is in your own files." That this is a lie and you know it is a lie is proven in your files in my letters to you. And that the lawyers know it is a lie is proven in the letters I wrote the publishers - all without getting back a few pages of letters.

You "regret" that you "have not responded to" my " most recent complaints as quickly as " I "might have wished." You have not responded to them or my earlier ones. You justify this by telling me you had no time for correspondence. Have you no shame at all, man? How about my time. And not only in having to write you more than once about matters no writer with any self-respect or professional standards ought have to be written about more than once? How about all of my time you took and Amy took for you? Who do you think you are, God? The only person in the world whose time means anything?

Your biggest lie is, "(a)s you are aware, we made the changes you requested on page 414 of all editions." You did not and when only after the laeyers got after you you sent me a copy of the proposed change I made it clear that it was <u>not</u> what I requested and that I did not accept it. What I requested is that you eliminate any reference to me and your failure to do that with all the copies of this truly evil fabrication already printed and sold you did not eliminate either the defamation of me or your trading on my name.

It was not by accident, as you profess, that you listed me in your "formal" interviews when there was no interview. It was to trade on my name.

And if you had not had this intent, there was no reason to continue to use my name on page 414. All you had to say, and this would have permitted you to palm off the same fabrication that is basic to your book, that Marcello's lawyer got what the FBI had disclosed about Marcello in its JFK assassination disclosures.

You did not do this for the same reason you made up that lie about my Wasserman correspondence - to give your fraud of a book some seeming substance. But it defamed me and that didn't bother you. As the lawyers may not have realized, you described Wasserman as this top mafia guy's "top lawyer" when he was in fact an independent and respected immigration lawyer, now safely dead. And then, when the correspondence you have made clear you were making up a vicious lie, you said that he "rummaged" around my place for much of a year. In complete freedom

made clear, you were making up a vicious lie, you said that he "rummaged" around my place for more than a year, in complete freedom.

How can you consider yourself even a human, leave alone a decent human, when you did this to an aged and ill man, enfeebled and limited in what he can do, of whom you took so much uncompensated time (you were even too cheap to send me a book! or too self-important and above normal considerations), who made everything it had cost so much to get freely available to you? Have you any notion of the time Amy's presence and working here cost me? Or nuisance and inconvenience? (She was not a nuisance but anyone here so often and for long had to be. Only nobody else was - it was you alone and not Marcello's lawyer who "rummaged" through my JFK assassination files.)

And even now you can't find a word - or time for a word - but you find time for banana-split literary praises, as you find time for xeroxing that but not for the copies of my missing correspondence that disappeared when you were "rummaging" here - of regrets or apology. You characterize yourself: you are not a man, not of any decency.

And publishers and their lawyers characterize themselves when they are silent knowing the truth.

For their information - I'm sending them copies - Wasserman was never here. He never asked to come here, He sent nobody here. He had no interest at all - I initiated the one letter he sent me that you lie about. (Even saying you had "access" and suggesting thereby that it was secret when I sent you copies.) We never even met. Or spoke.

And there are almost no names mentioned less frequently than Marcello's in those FBI JFK assassination files so there was not even a reason for any Wasserman search for Marcello. But if he'd had any such interest all he had to do was write a letter to the FBI and the cost to him would have been a pittancce. And he could have gotten more, what was not included in the JFK assassination records.

You fabricated that malicious lie about me to give your phony book some smoke that you made appear to have substance by your fabricating of it.

You know you made it up. You knew and know it is a lie. If this was not your purpose, what other purpose did you have - or could you have had? And you traded on my name in the field for the same purpose, even making up nonexisting "formal interviews" for that purpose. And you refer to that fabrication as made "in a spirit of gratitude." Some "gratitude!" Especially when you convert me and my home into a mafia den!

Perhaps I can't do very much when I'm 76 and severely limited medically and physically but if I can do nothing else I will leave a record for the future for those who do not regard so great a national and international tragedy as suitable for literary whoring and pimping. And I now ask for that purpose for a letter of apology and retraction from the publisher, which I intend by sending a copy of this to Mr. Farley. I'm not able to sue if it is not sent. I want it for record purposes and I also want to give them a chance to recover a shred of publishing decency, the shred they threw away when I first wrote and that letter was referred to you - who ignored it, too.

You are as utterly shameless as you are dishonest,

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg